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| **Expert Group on the InternationalTelecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs) Sixth meeting – 17 and 18 January 2022** |  |
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| **4 January 2022** |
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| Contribution by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Kuwait |
| Final thoughts on the ITRs |
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With the EG-ITRs coming to an end, it is obvious that there is no agreement on the treaty. Some members are of the view that the ITRs are relevant and others are of the view that they are not applicable.

Although finding consensus on the way forward is not part of the mandate of the group, the results of the meetings put us in a difficult situation, where we are not sure how to move forward.

Egypt and Kuwait have strong supporters of the ITRs and we have clarified in our contributions and interventions before the importance of finding consensus and reaching common views.

We believe that the scope of the ITRs should be limited to Member States and not address operating agencies. Member States can then, through their national regulations and policies, ensure that operators apply the provisions and directions of the ITRs. This was also illustrated by Mexico in contribution 12 to the second meeting of EG-ITRs.

We have seen that some member states are trying to have a treaty that is active and working, by trying to find a way to have one single treaty. Other member states object to this position, without giving an alternative way forward.

The current situation with two versions of the treaty (1988 and 2012 ITRs) is harmful to the image of ITU as the UN agency responsible for telecommunications/ICTs.

Therefore, we look forward to receiving proposals on the way forward from all Member States, and especially those who believe that the ITRs are no longer relevant, including proposals to abrogate the treaty if they see so.

ITRs are important to us as developing countries, and hence we propose for this Expert Group to continue its work until consensus is reached.

It has been an honour and pleasure to participate in this group, and we would like to thank all colleagues for their active participation, the secretariat for their hard work to facilitate the work of the group, the Vice Chairmen for leading the work of the regional groups and of course Mr. Lwando Bbuku, the chairman of the Expert Group for his tireless dedication to the meetings.

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